

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01452 251422Z

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 ONY-00 NEAE-00 ES-01 /017 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6578

S E C R E T ANKARA 1452

LIMDIS

DEPT FOR NEA AND EUR ONLY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: APRIL 23-25 MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 41187, (B) 76 ANKARA 9177

1. AS REPORTED PARA 2F REF B, STEERING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTERIAL WILL MEET ON APRIL 23 (AT WHICH USG WILL BE REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR) AND PLENARY MEETINGS OF MINISTER ARE SCHEDULED ONLY FOR APRIL 24 AND 25. ON APRIL 25 AUDIENCE WITH SHAH ALSO IS SCHEDULED. THEREFORE, PLANS CALL ESSENTIALLY ONLY FOR TWO-DAY MINISTERIAL AS IN PAST.

2. WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO ALTER DATES EVEN IF ONLY A FEW DAYS BACK OR FORWARD. WE BASE THIS ON A VERY DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE WE HAD A YEAR AGO WHEN UK SOUGHT TO SHIFT DATES AFTER THEY HAD BEEN INITIALLY SET. WE THEN LITERALLY WASTED MONTHS SEARCHING FOR OTHER ITEMS WHICH FITTED SCHEDULES OF ALL MINISTERS INVOLVED. TIME AND AGAIN WE COULD FIND DATES AGREEABLE TO MOST, BUT NEVER ALL, OF THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS. FINALLY, IN DESPAIR, THE BRITISH RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL DATES, ONLY TO FIND
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THAT HAVING SCRUBBED THEM EARLIER, THE TURKISH FONMIN HAD SUBSEQUENTLY MADE AN UNBREAKABLE COMMITMENT ELSEWHERE. THE END RESULT WAS THAT WE WENT BACK TO THE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED DATES WITH THE CONFERENCE AGENDA AND THE TURKISH FONMIN'S PRESENCE BEING COMPRESSED AND ADJUSTED VERY MUCH AS NOW TENTATIVELY SUGGESTED PARA 2 REFTEL.

3. WE WOULD THINK THAT IF NECESSARY THIS COMPRESSING
COULD BE DONE AGAIN THIS YEAR TO MEET SECRETARY'S
NEEDS. THE REMAINING FOREIGN MINISTERS NEVER LIKE IT
VERY MUCH WHEN A CENTO AMBASSADOR PINCH-HITS FOR HIS
MINISTER, BUT IT HAPPENS IN ONE OR TWO INSTANCES AT ALMOST
EVERY CENTO MEETING SO THEY ARE SOMEWHAT USED TO IT.

4. WHILE A DECISION TO OPEN UP TIMING MINISTERIAL
MEETING (OR A SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S
PARTICIPATION WILL BE CURTAILED) WILL CAUSE A CERTAIN
AMOUNT OF HEARTBURN, IF IT IS DECIDED THAT WE MUST
DO THIS, I URGE THAT WE DO IT VERY PROMPTLY, CERTAINLY
NOT LATER THAN THE NEXT COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING
SCHEDULED HERE FOR MARCH 15 OR 16.
MACOMBER

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